

Coast Guard Reading List

“Lifelong learning is about challenging yourself through exposure to differing perspectives, new experiences, and education. As a leader, I cannot overstate the value of reading in terms of lifelong learning, personal growth, and intellectual development.” – ADM Thad Allen

About the List

The reading list provides recommended books related to leadership. The list is not all-inclusive; the goal is to provide a starting point or expand existing knowledge and skills. The list is updated annually and released in August to coincide with Coast Guard Day.

The reading list provides a tool for individual leadership growth, taking into account that responsibility for leadership development rests on each individual, his or her unit, and the organization.

Commandant's Choice

Since 2002, the Commandant selects one book annually as the “Commandant’s Choice” for professional reading.

(Note: There were no selections made for 2008 or 2009)

2010 Selection

Rescue Warriors: The U.S. Coast Guard, America’s Forgotten Heroes, by David Helvarg (ISBN: 978-0312363727). In *Rescue Warriors*, award winning journalist David Helvarg brings us into the daily lives of Coasties, filled with a salty maritime mix of altruism and adrenaline, as well as dozens of death-defying rescues at sea and on hurricane-ravaged shores.

Previous Selections

- **2007 – The Contrarian’s Guide to Leadership**, by Steven Sample (ISBN: 0787967076)
- **2006 – Alexander Hamilton**, by Ron Chernow (ISBN: 0143034758)
- **2005 – Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies**, by Jim Collins and Jerry Porras (ISBN: 0060516402)
- **2003 – Character in Action: The U.S. Coast Guard on Leadership**, by Donald Phillips and ADM James Loy, USCG (Ret.) (ISBN: 1591146720)
- **2002 – The Founding Fathers on Leadership: Classic Teamwork in Changing Times**, by Donald Phillips (ISBN: 0446674257)

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Leader of Leaders Section (Recommendations from Senior Coast Guard Leaders)

- **Leadership is an Art**, by Max De Pree (ISBN: 978-0385512466). De Pree offers a humanitarian approach to leadership. (*MCPO-CGRF Jeffrey Smith's Choice*)
- **Creating We: Change I-Thinking to We-Thinking and Build a Healthy, Thriving Organization**, by Judith Glaser (ISBN: 978-1593372682). Whether your company has recently been acquired, merged, restructured, downsized, or, in the midst of rapid growth and expansion, has lost the sense of unity it once had, this revolutionary new book shows you how to create healthy work environments and become a "WE-centric" company that achieves extraordinary breakthrough success. (*Past National Commodore Steven Budar's Choice*)
- **Leading in a Culture of Change**, by Michael Fullan (ISBN: 978-0787987664). Leading in a Culture of Change offers new and seasoned leaders' insights into the dynamics of change and presents a unique and imaginative approach for navigating the intricacies of the change process. (*SES Claire Grady's Choice*)
- **A Magnificent Catastrophe: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, America's First Presidential Campaign**, by Edward J. Larson (ISBN: 978-0743293174). In this absorbing, brisk account, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Larson recreates the dramatic presidential race of 1800, which, Larson says, stamped American democracy with its distinctive partisan character as Republicans and Federalists battled for the presidency. (*VADM Vivien Crea's (ret.) Choice*)
- **Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10**, by Marcus Luttrell (ISBN: 978-0316067607). If you're looking for a true story that showcases both American heroism and Afghani humanity, Marcus Luttrell's Lone Survivor may be the book for. (*MCPOCG Skip Bowen's Choice*)

Contemporary Issues Section

- **In the Age of the Smart Machine: The Future of Work and Power**, by Shoshana Zuboff* (ISBN: 978-0465032112). Zuboff documents the pitfalls and promise of computerized technology in business life, warning that advanced information technologies present us with a fateful choice--to continue automation at the risk of robbing workers of gratification and self-image, or to "informate" and empower ordinary working people to make critical and collaborative judgments.

*Note: For those of you seeking the origins of empowerment by information I would recommend you start with *Fire in the Valley: The Making of the Personal Computer*, (1984)

- **Fire in the Valley: The Making of the Personal Computer**, by Paul Freiberger and Michael Swaine (ISBN: 978-0071358927). Swain and Freiberger capture the communal spirit, the brilliance and blundering, the assortment of naivete, noble purpose and greed, and the inevitable transformation of all this into a major industry. Must Reading – *Byte*

- **Chaos: Making a New Science**, by James Gleick (ISBN: 978-0747404132). James Gleick explains the theories behind the fascinating new science called chaos. Alongside relativity and quantum mechanics, it is being hailed as the twentieth century's third revolution.
- **Disappearing Through the Skylight: Culture and Technology in the Twentieth Century**, by O.B. Hardison, Jr. (ISBN: 978-0140115826). The key take away from this book is that is the recognition that when an entire culture understands something it becomes "invisible." It doesn't go away, it becomes intuitive, and it becomes culture.
- **Employee's Survival Guide to Change**, by Jeffrey Hiatt (ISBN: 978-1930885202). A complete guide to surviving and thriving during organizational change.
- **Epic Change: How to Lead Change in the Global Age**, by Timothy Clark (ISBN: 978-0470182550). *Epic Change* presents a strategic-level road map, along with tactical level tools, for the every-day needs of leaders who must respond to all types of adaptive challenge to remain competitive.
- **Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands: The Bestselling Guide to Doing Business in More than 60 Countries**, by Terri Morrison and Wayne Conaway (ISBN: 978-1593373689). This is an invaluable book for "doing well while doing good" in your intercultural relations, covering the protocols of appointments, business entertaining, greetings, forms of address, gestures, dress, and gifts in 60 of the nations you're most likely to be doing business.
- **Linked: How Everything is Connected to Everything Else and What it Means**, by Albert-Laszlo Barabási (ISBN: 978-0452284395). The results of Barabási's research into the behavior of networks are deeply compelling. Not all networks are created equal, he says, and he shows how even fairly robust systems like the Internet could be crippled by taking out a few super-connected nodes, or hubs. His mathematical descriptions of this behavior are helping doctors, programmers, and security professionals design systems better suited to their needs.
- **The Mindful Way through Depression: Freeing Yourself from Chronic Unhappiness**, by Williams, Teasdale, Segal, and Kabat-Zinn (ISBN: 978-1593851286). This authoritative, easy-to-use self-help program is based on methods clinically proven to reduce the recurrence of chronic unhappiness.
- **Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital**, by Heidi Squier Kraft (ISBN: 978-0316067904). Dr. Kraft has written a fresh, emotionally bruising record of what it is to be a care giver not just to those who obviously need it, but to those whose experiences lash them from the inside. This is the book for anyone who ever wanted a concise version of the direct and indirect mental cost of combat.
- **Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?": A Psychologist Explains the Development of Racial Identity**, by Beverly Daniel Tatum (ISBN: 978-0465083619). An insightful exploration of the varieties of Americans' experience with race and racism in everyday life.
- **The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey**, by Dr. Spencer Wells (ISBN: 978-0812971460). Spencer Wells traces human evolution back to our very first ancestor in *The Journey of Man*. Along the way, he sums up the explosive effect of new techniques in genetics on the field of evolutionary biology and all available evidence from the fossil record.

Leadership Section

- **Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life**, by Sissela Bok (ISBN: 978-0375705281). A thoughtful addition to the growing debate over public and private morality. Looks at lying and deception in law, family, medicine, government.
- **The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable**, by Patrick Lencioni (ISBN: 978-0787960759). Once again using an astutely written fictional tale to unambiguously but painlessly deliver some hard truths about critical business procedures, Patrick Lencioni targets group behavior in the final entry of his trilogy of corporate fables. And like those preceding it, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* is an entertaining, quick read filled with useful information that will prove easy to digest and implement.
- **From Boomers to Bloggers: Success Strategies Across Generations**, by Misti Burmeister (ISBN: 978-0980220902). Boomers to Bloggers offers tips to help boomers, Xers and Yers get what they want from their careers while helping their employers and peers achieve their goals.
- **How Life Imitates Chess: Making the Right Moves, from the Board to the Boardroom**, by Garry Kasparov (ISBN: 978-1596913875). Kasparov has put his powerful strategic thinking to work in business and politics, showing that a simple reliance on instincts can guide you through even the most complex challenges. With no shortage of wit or eloquence, he's answered our hardest questions about what factors can make or break a decision-making moment. --*Anne Bartholomew*
- **Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World Revised**, by Margaret Wheatley (ISBN: 978-1576751190). An updated version of an earlier work that first explores the implications of quantum physics on organizational practice, then investigates ways that biology and chemistry affect living systems, and finally focuses on chaos theory, the creation of a new order, and the manner that scientific principles affect leadership.
- **Primal Leadership: Learning to Lead with Emotional Intelligence**, by Daniel Goleman, Richard Boyatzis, and Annie McKee (ISBN: 978-1578514861). Since the actions of the leader apparently account for up to 70 percent of employees' perception of the climate of their organization, Goleman and his team emphasize the importance of developing what they term "resonant leadership." Focusing on the four domains of emotional intelligence--self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management--they explore what contributes to and detracts from resonant leadership, and how the development of these four EI competencies spawns different leadership styles.
- **Quiet Leadership: Six Steps to Transforming Performance at Work**, by David Rock (ISBN: 978-0060835903). Transforming performance involves listening and communicating . . . The ultimate goal of quiet leadership is to empower employees.
- **The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations**, by Ori Brafman and Rod Beckstrom (ISBN: 978-1591841432) A breezy and entertaining look at how decentralization is changing many organizations.

Coast Guard History and Culture Section

- **Lucky Thirteen: D-Days in the Pacific with the U. S. Coast Guard in World War II**, by Ken Wiley (ISBN: 978-1932033533). In this book, Ken Wiley, a Coast Guardsman on an Attack Transport in the Pacific, relates the intricate, often nerve wracking story of how the

United States projected its power across 6,000 miles in the teeth of fanatical Japanese resistance.

- **The Metal Life Car: The Inventor, the Imposter, and the Business of Lifesaving**, by George Buker (ISBN: 978-0817316082).
- **Mind the Light, Katie: The History of Thirty-Three Female Lighthouse Keepers**, by Mary Louise Clifford and J. Candace Clifford (ISBN:978-0963641274). A collection of stories on the lives of thirty-three female lighthouse keepers between the years 1830 and 1947.
- **A Perfect Lady: A Pictorial History of the U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle**, by Tido Holtkamp (ISBN: 978-0979594922). A pictorial history of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Barque *Eagle* with over 280 photographs. Since 1946, the U.S. Coast Guard has used the Barque *Eagle* for training their cadets and officer candidates.
- **Two Tankers Down: The Greatest Small-Boat Rescue in U.S. Coast Guard History**, by Robert Frump (ISBN: 978-1599213378). Off the coast of Cape Cod in 1950, a February blizzard tore not one but two oil tankers in half. This is the suspenseful true story of a U.S. Coast Guard captain and his small crew who were called out to rescue the tanker crews without a cutter or chopper or a sea plane. But Captain Bernie Weber knew well the infamous Coast Guard motto: "You have to go out. You don't have to come back." He took a small boat and crew out in 60-foot waves and rescued 30 men. Weber's subsequent gold medal for valor is still revered within the U.S. Coast Guard, and this thrilling first-ever narrative is a gripping adventure story for fans of *The Perfect Storm* and *The Hungry Ocean*.